

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements**Prelude** *Rondeau from Suite No. 2 in B Minor (BWV 1067)*

J. S. Bach

Chrissi Ellis, flute, and Ron Ollis, organ

Call to Worship**Prayer of Praise****Prayer of Confession****Assurance of Pardon****Lighting of the Advent Candles on the Advent Wreath**

Dan and Melba Slaven

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading** Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon "Bearing God"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Special Music *Sing We Now of Christmas,*

French Carol, arr. Jeff Bennett

Margaret Bardin, piano, and Ron Ollis, organ

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**Benediction****Seven Fold Amen****Postlude** *Toccata and Variation on Hyfrydol*

Gordon Young



Tithes, offerings, and pledge cards may be dropped in the basket by the baptismal font. Pledge Cards for 2021 are available for you to take, prayerfully complete, and return to the church office or the offering plate next week.

To show love for one another, please remember to exit the sanctuary by row from the rear and maintain six-foot distance from those not in your household.

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Louis McCaleb; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Imelda Carrillo; Baywood Crossing residents and staff; Ron Grimes (Thelma Jean Paradysz’s son-in-law); Mary Knapik; Larry Parks; John Rarden, Sr.; Michael Wharry; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Kathy Sydnor; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus; Jaundine Fifield and her twin sister, Imogene Fish; Jason Reed.

FLOWERS are given to the glory of God from Danny and Melba Slaven in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary *today*; and from Bill and Pat McPhail in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary.

Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at fpcpasadena.org

December 20 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Celebrate this season of anticipation and preparation each week at FPC as we journey towards Bethlehem. The fourth (**LOVE**) candle will be lit on the Advent wreath in worship. To add meaning to this season, the **2020 Advent Devotional** is emailed each week (*mailed to those without email*).

Worship Services in December if public health concerns allow. See in-church worship protocols below:

December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am sanctuary worship with a live streaming option.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service, Thursday at 5:30 pm, will be held outside. Bring your own lawn chair, candle, and means of lighting it. Join in singing a capella.

December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas, 10:30 am sanctuary worship with a live streaming option.

The Christmas JOY OFFERING provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools. Please give generously to this special offering on Sunday, December 20.

The Bethlehem Market - the alternative gift market, is open under the front drive-thru before and after worship service. **Today, 12/20, is the final Sunday.** You may donate by cash or check (written to FPC) to your favorite mission in honor of someone, and you will be given a gift card to send to the person you are honoring. Stop by to shop and give a gift that will make a difference.

2021 Pledge Update: Thanks to those who have turned in their pledge cards. And if you haven’t...it’s not too late! Your turning in the pledge card helps the session know how to plan for next year.

PYCC Mission Project December 2020 - Chrissi Ellis is our FPC candidate for Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) for Presbytery of New Covenant. Chrissi and other PYCC candidates have met via Zoom to plan, grow in faith, and virtually bond with each other as they prepare for Conclaves 2021 at Cho-Yeh. What fun it will be to finally be together for Conclaves! *Let’s support Chrissi by donating to Mission Project 2020. Below is a list of items needed. A collection box will be in the Narthex through December. FPC, let’s overwhelm Chrissi with donations for her January PYCC meeting!*

Thank you from your Discipleship Ministry and Chrissi Ellis

PYCC MISSION PROJECT DECEMBER 2020

Individually wrapped snacks	Face towels	Sunscreen
Individually wrapped drinks	Soap	Insect repellent
Masks	Hand sanitizer	Mints
Combs	Toothbrush	Socks
Hand lotion	Toothpaste	
Lip balm	Plastic utensils	

Prayer Shawl Group meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 1:30 pm. To join this group contact Johnnie Haltom or Barbara Davis.

The Wednesday Brown Bag and Bible will resume in January.

Annual Reports due from each ministry by January 8.

FOUND - Set of keys with a Ford key on ring. Contact Barbara at church, 281-991-8700.

Reminder: Narthex doors open at 10 am. Worship Service is at 10:30 am. Also, for the safety of each and every one of us, **masks must be worn while in the building - even while sitting in the sanctuary.**

Live-streaming of Sunday’s service can be found on our website. Please use your good judgment about which option is best for you and your health. When the pandemic is over, we look forward to all being together again safely.

First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena In-Church Worship Protocols

For at least the next year, we anticipate our lives will be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. We face difficult choices between conflicting needs, wants, and imperatives. We anticipate that we will be continuously evaluating what worship and all other church functions look like.

Despite our best efforts to provide a safe worship experience, conditions may again require the closing of the building. The pastor, in consultation with church leaders, will use CDC, Harris County, and PCUSA guidelines and good judgment to determine how to promote safety in reopening FPCP while actively monitoring local transmission rates of COVID-19. To preserve the health of our members, if circumstances change and worshipping together is not wise, services will again be virtual only.

We recognize that some of our members have underlying health issues or risk factors. Their health and safety must be at the forefront of our considerations. Persons with a high morbidity risk from COVID-19 are urged to stay home and continue to worship virtually. We will nonetheless strive to promote safe, in-person worship experiences for all that do not discriminate against persons with disabilities or high-risk conditions.

Church Physical Set Up:

- Doors will be left open so no one has to touch a door handle. This includes the designated entry door [the front door under the porte-cochere] and the doors into the sanctuary.
- No-Touch Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be installed in the Narthex.
- Offering plates will be placed by the baptismal font.
- Pews will be marked so people space themselves safely and avoid contact.
- Hymnals, Bibles, friendship folders, offering envelopes, Kleenex, etc. will be removed from pews.
- Signs will be posted that only one person at a time is to be in the restroom and additional signs will be posted to wipe handles touched with sanitizing wipes.
- The Church kitchen will remain closed.
- Signs encouraging hand washing and mandating face mask use (covering nose and mouth) will be posted in the Narthex.
- Signs encouraging social distancing will be posted in the narthex as well as the sanctuary.
- Sanitizing wipes will be available as needed.
- Gloves will be available in the Narthex and at the back of the church.
- One microphone per speaker will be set up.
- Camera will be set up to provide option of live streaming the service

Worship Procedures

- **Everyone in the building and on the church grounds must wear a cloth or medical mask.** Members are strongly encouraged to bring their own. We may have some available, while supplies last. Individuals uncomfortable wearing a face mask or with a medical condition that makes wearing a mask problematic may continue to participate in our on-line services.
- Social distancing of a minimum of six feet must be observed at all times, with the exception of members who live in the same household.
- Non-contact infrared thermometers will be used to take temperatures upon entry. Anyone with a temperature of 100.2 and higher will not be allowed into the building.
- Names of worshipers will be recorded as they enter to keep track of who has been part of the worship experience in the event that they need to be contacted.
- Greeters will be asked to stand back a minimum of six feet and welcome folks verbally.
- Bulletins and announcements will continue to be available online for the live streamed service.
- Bulletins will not be distributed to participate in the service in the sanctuary. Information will be projected on the screens at the front of the sanctuary.
- We will present shortened services to minimize risk.

Worship Procedures continued...

- Live streaming on YouTube or recorded services will continue for those who are not comfortable returning to 'in-person' worship
- Soloist may sing from behind a three-sided plexiglass shield.
- There will be no congregational or choral singing. It has been determined that singing is among the riskier behaviors for spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.
- Worshipers will leave by row, as directed.

Other Changes to Normal Practices

- Online (ZOOM) continues for Brown Bag, Session and ministry meetings, PW, Book Group, Wonderful Wednesday, etc.
- Office open by appointment. As on Sundays, masks required for staff and visitors.
- Forego November celebration of communion.
- Use of building by outside groups remains suspended.
- Congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 are to stay home.
- Local health officials will be contacted if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the church and this information also will be communicated with members so they are aware of potential exposure. The Clerk of Session, with the assistance of the church office, will be responsible to make the communications.

DISCONTINUE:

- Children's Sermon
- Passing the Peace, hugs, handshakes, elbow bumps, etc.
- Physical use of Bibles and Hymnals
- Nursery
- Coffee
- Use of water fountains